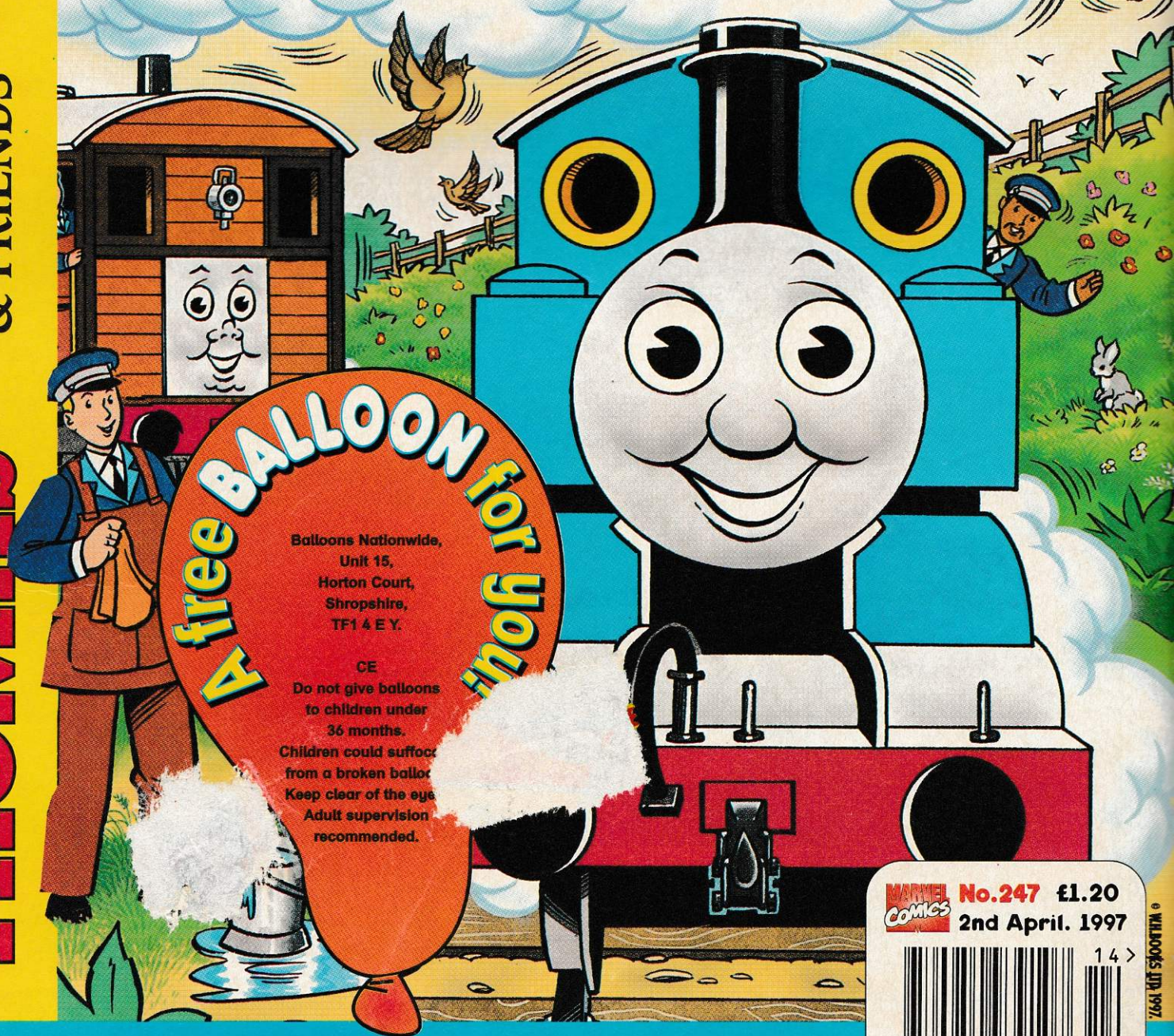
A FREE gift for you!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

PEEP PEEP! FROM THOMAS!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS



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Stories · Puzzles · Colouring

Hello, everybody!

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Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to

.....

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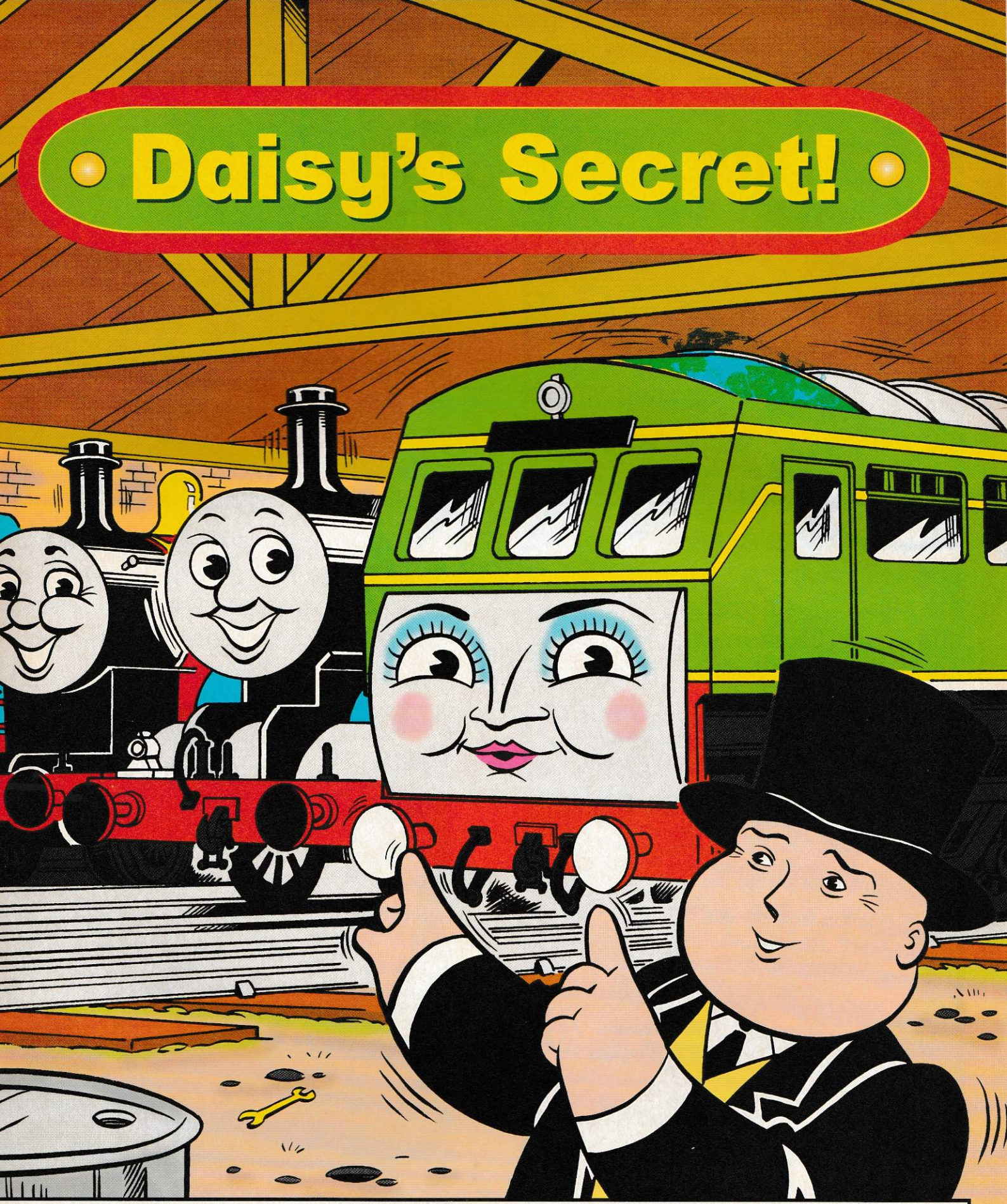
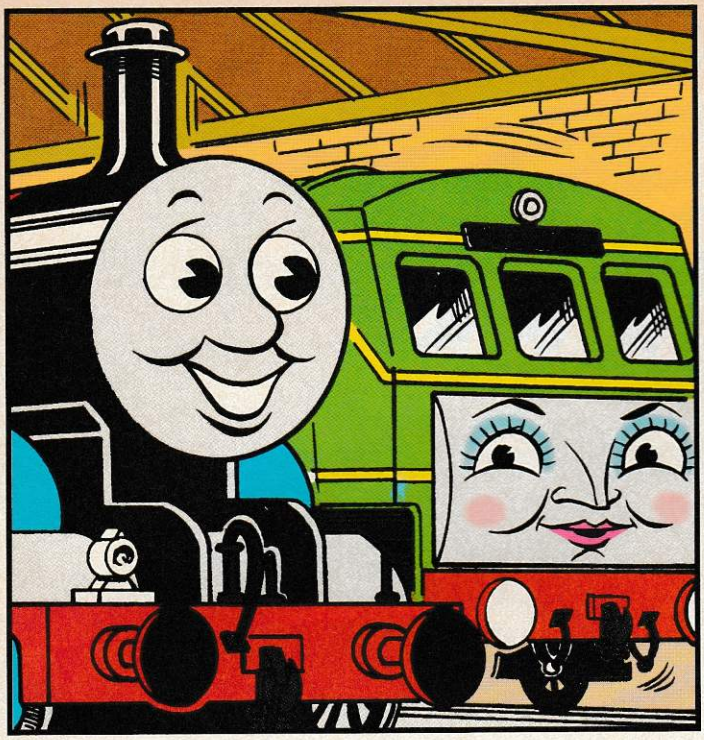
Daisy's Secret!

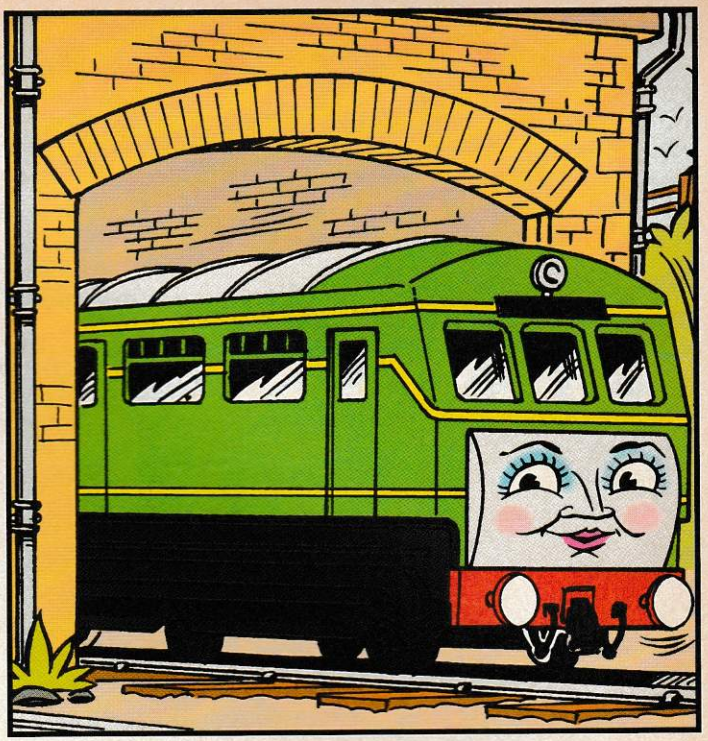


1. Early one evening, when all the engines had returned to the shed for the night, the Fat Controller came in to make an announcement. "We're going to hold a Spring Fayre!"

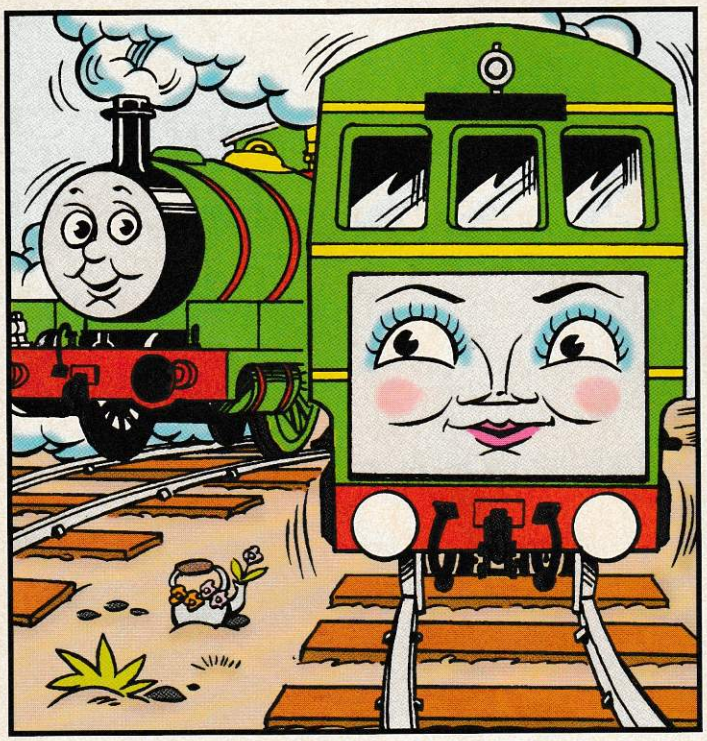
2. The engines were very excited as the Fat Controller continued, "I want all of you to take part in the fun, so you should think about what you're going to do on the day," he said.



3. When the Fat Controller left, the engines spent ages talking about the fayre. Daisy was so excited that she couldn't sleep. "Oh, what can I do for the fayre?" she sighed.



4. The next morning, Daisy went off to work with a big smile. "I've thought of an idea!" she said. "But it's going to be my secret until the big day of the Spring Fayre!"



5. "I've got an idea, and that's going to be a secret too!" whistled Percy, as he hurried off to pick up some trucks. So, they decided that they would all keep their ideas a secret!

6. As the day of the Spring Fayre approached, notices appeared at all the stations. Even Gordon was excited! "Everyone will be there to see me!" he boasted, importantly.

7. The big day arrived and all the engines' ideas were presented to the people of Sodor. Proud James held a 'Draw James Competition' with a prize for the best picture.

8. Bill and Ben did a 'Spot the Difference' game which everyone enjoyed. "I can't keep my face like this all day!" groaned Bill. "There'll be trouble if you don't!" said Ben.

9. Thomas took the children to a farmyard to meet all the animals. "You're so kind Thomas!" said a little boy. "This was my special secret!" replied Thomas with a jolly "Peeep!"

10. 'Face Painting with Percy' attracted a lot of interest. Children took turns to decorate Percy's cheeky face. Some of the parents even took photos. Percy loved the attention!

11. Gordon and Henry really showed off! Visitors looked in their cabs and the drivers explained the controls. “Don’t forget to say how important I am!” puffed Gordon.

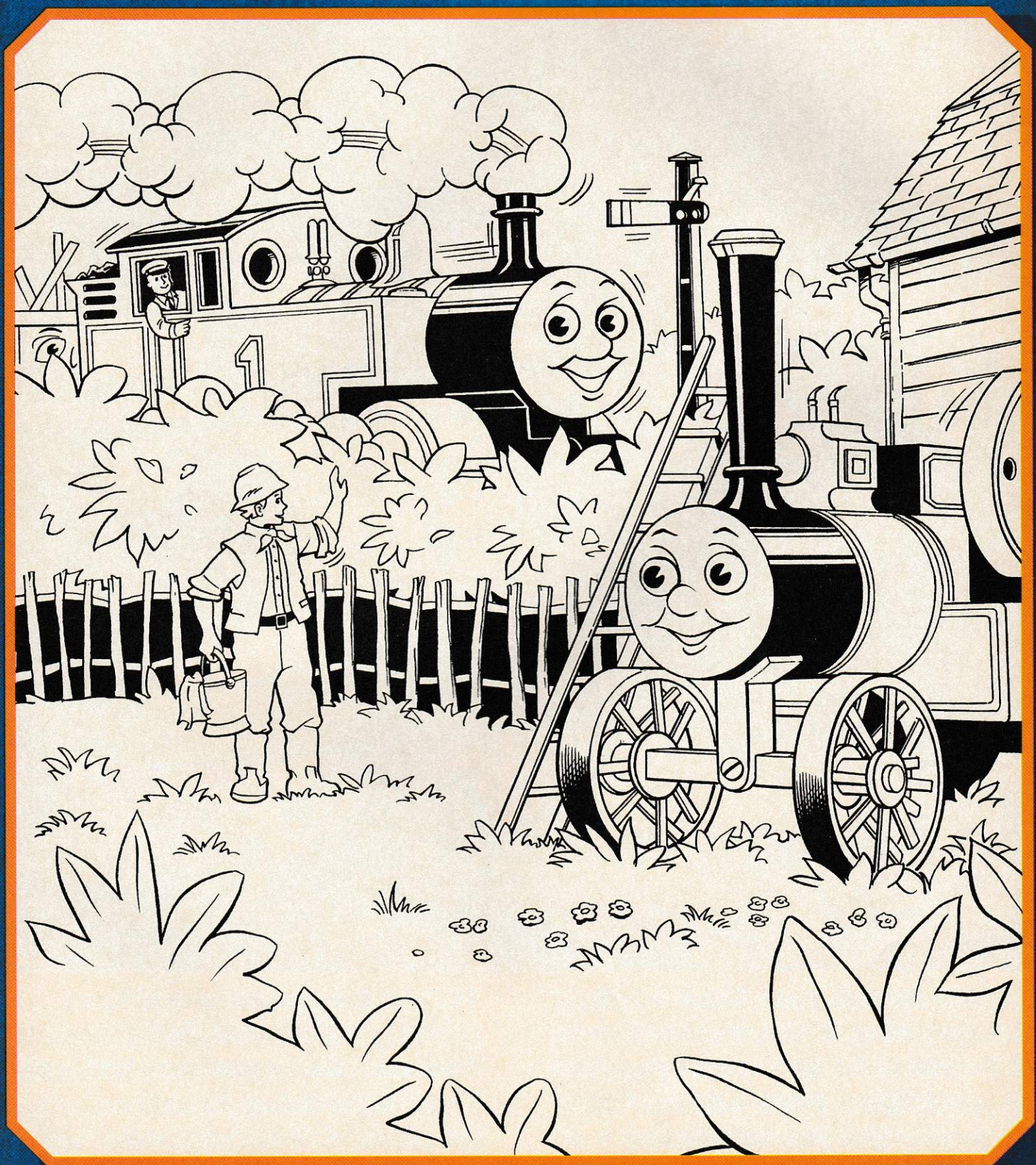
12. Even Annie and Clarabel joined in and were made into restaurant carriages for the day. Lady Hatt was chef and cooked a delicious ‘Spring Fayre Special’ meal.

13. No-one had seen Daisy all day. She arrived at dusk with a truckload of fireworks! So that was her secret, all specially arranged with the Fat Controller. She was so pleased!

14. It was a wonderful end to a great day. "Good old Daisy!" called Thomas. "Your secret was brilliant!" The Fat Controller, looking on, felt proud of all his engines!

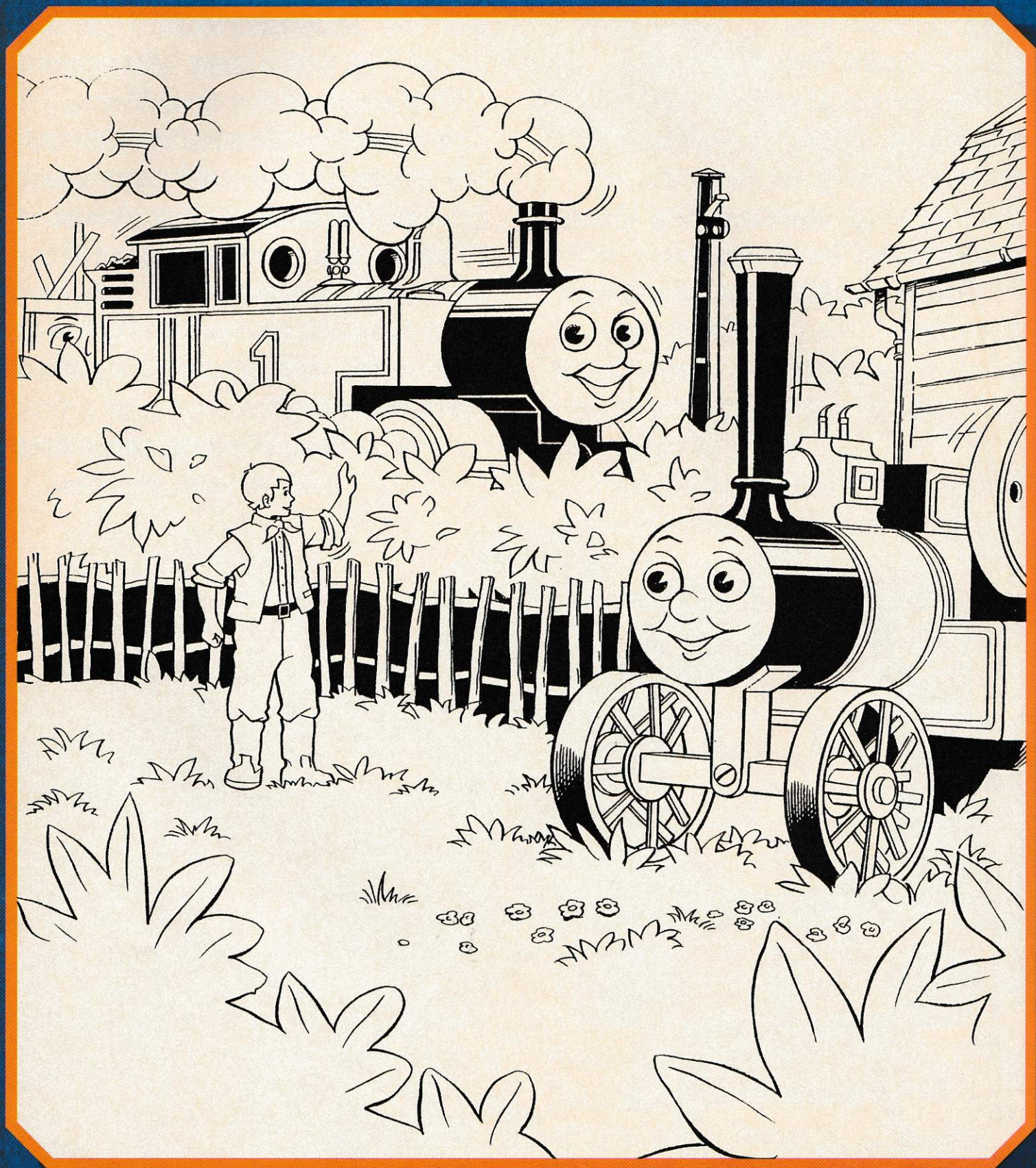
Spot the c

These two pages look the same, but there are
spot the 5 changes? When you have



lifference!

some tiny differences between them! Can you found them all, colour in the pictures!

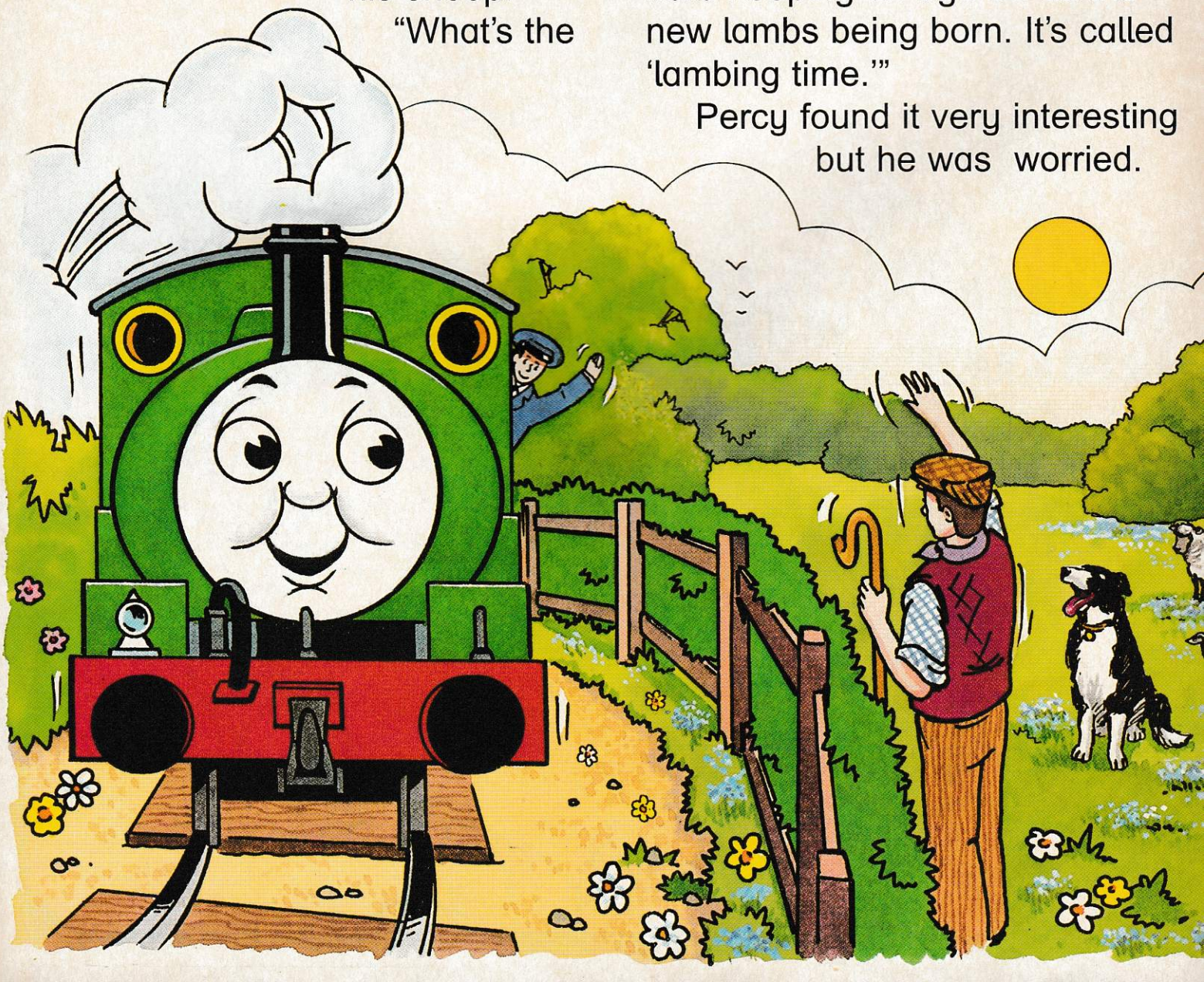


Counting Sheep!

One Spring morning, Percy stopped at a country halt. In the meadow nearby, there were lots of sheep with their baby lambs, and a shepherd with his sheepdog. "They're wonderful!" whistled Percy, as he watched the tiny white lambs trying to stand up for the first time.

The shepherd was counting his sheep. "What's the matter, Gareth, have you lost any?" the driver called. The worried Shepherd looked up, "I'm afraid I've lost a ewe," he replied. "What's a ewe?" asked Percy. "It's a mother sheep," explained his driver. Gareth told them what an exciting time of year it was. "There's a lot happening on the farm and I have to work very hard keeping an eye on all the new lambs being born. It's called 'lambing time.'"

Percy found it very interesting but he was worried.



"What can we do about the lost ewe?" he puffed. He thought about it all day.

That evening, Percy stopped at a signal. Suddenly, he heard a loud bleating sound. "Baaah Baaahh." "It must be Gareth's sheep!" he cried, excitedly. There were no sheep to be seen but the driver followed the bleating sound. There, on the bank of a stream, lay the ewe. She had three little lambs around her!

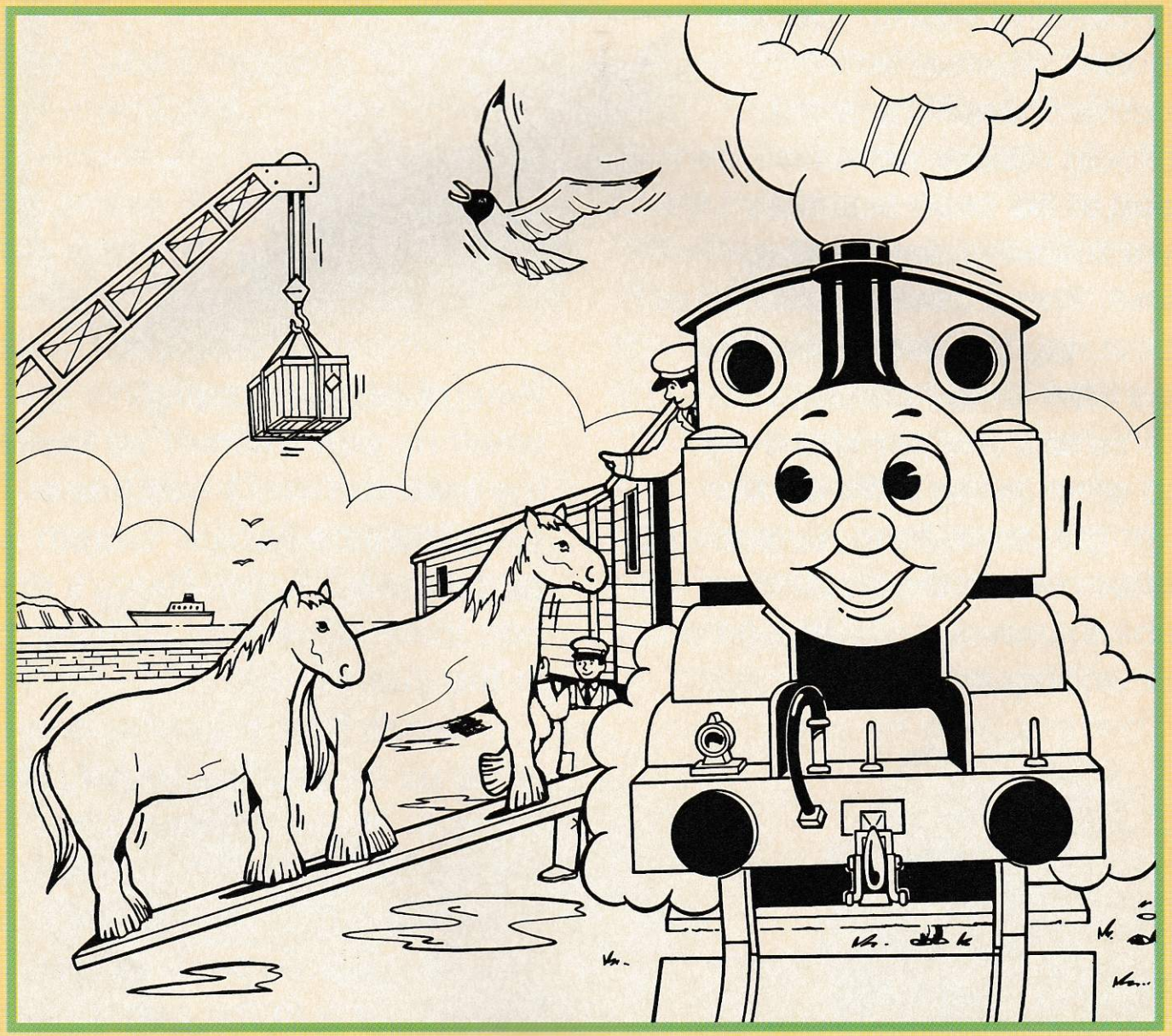
The new mother was very tired after giving birth, so the driver got down from his cab and led her over to the train. Her lambs followed close behind on their wobbly new legs.

Percy whistled happily when he saw them. "I've found the ewe and she's had three beautiful little babies! Gareth will be pleased." Soon, Percy's driver had them all nestled comfortably in the guard's van.

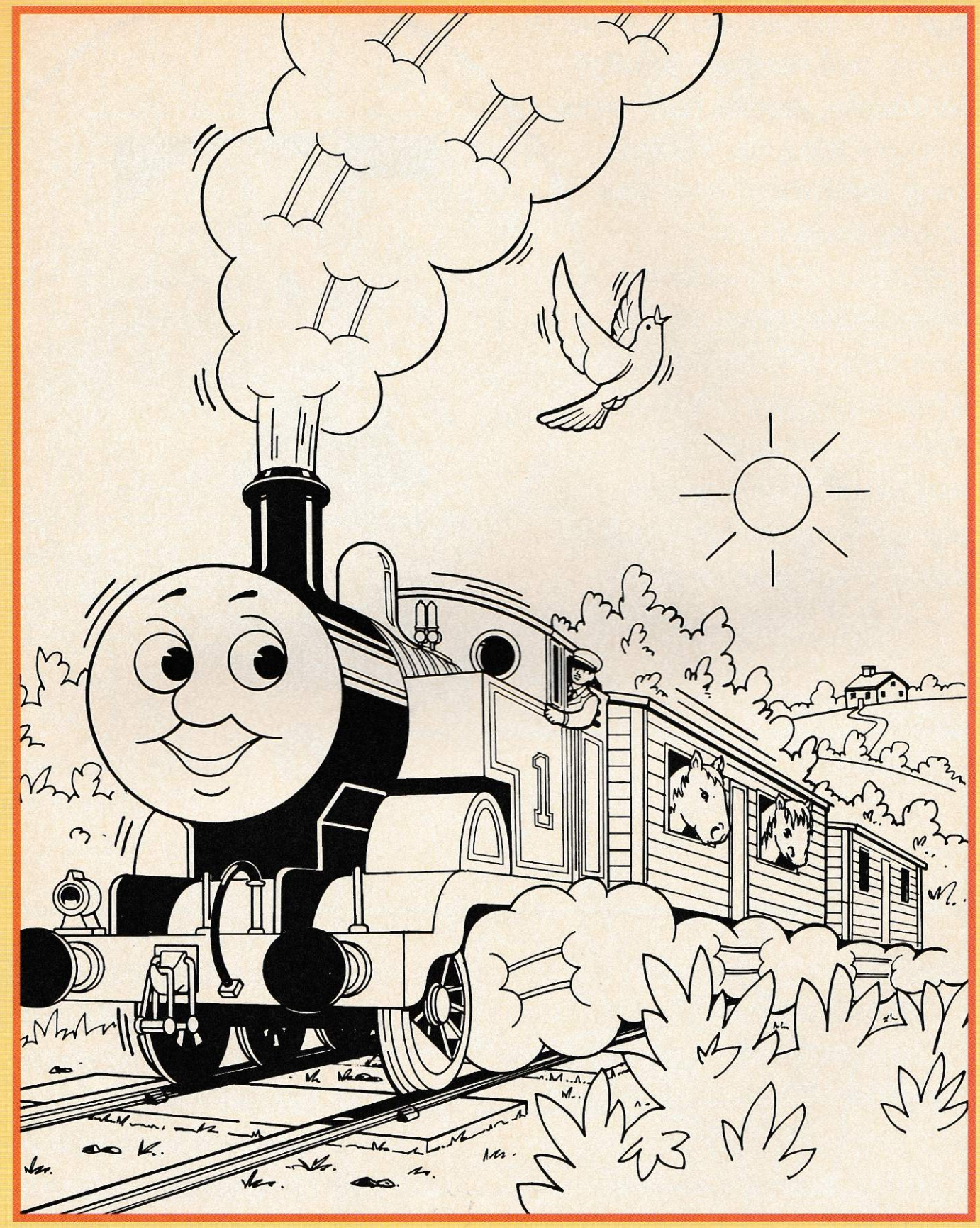
Percy's face was now one big smile as he chuffed happily down the line. He soon arrived back at the country halt and whistled to Gareth. Percy's driver called out. "We've got a surprise for you, Gareth! Look in the guard's van." "You've made my day!" Gareth exclaimed, when he saw the ewe and her lambs. "I lost one sheep and you've brought me four back!" Then he gave a tired yawn. "Lambing time is exhausting, I'll go straight to sleep when I get home!" The driver laughed. "That's what counting sheep does for you! Goodnight Gareth!"

A read & colour story

Horse Power!

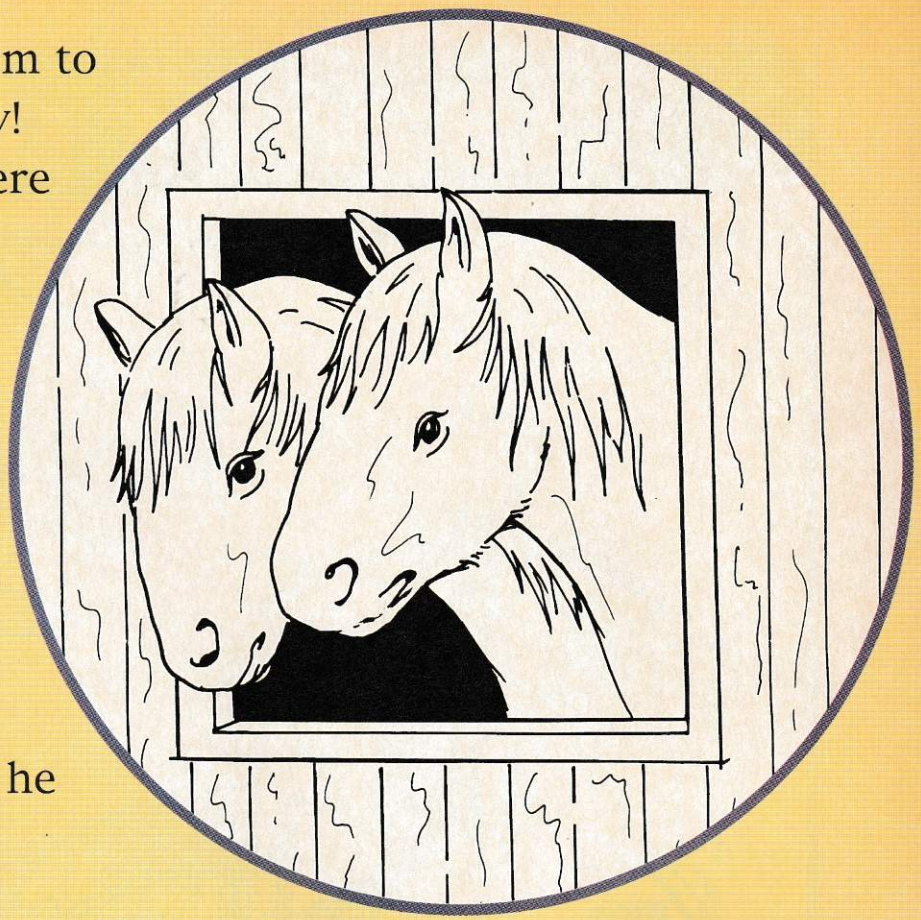


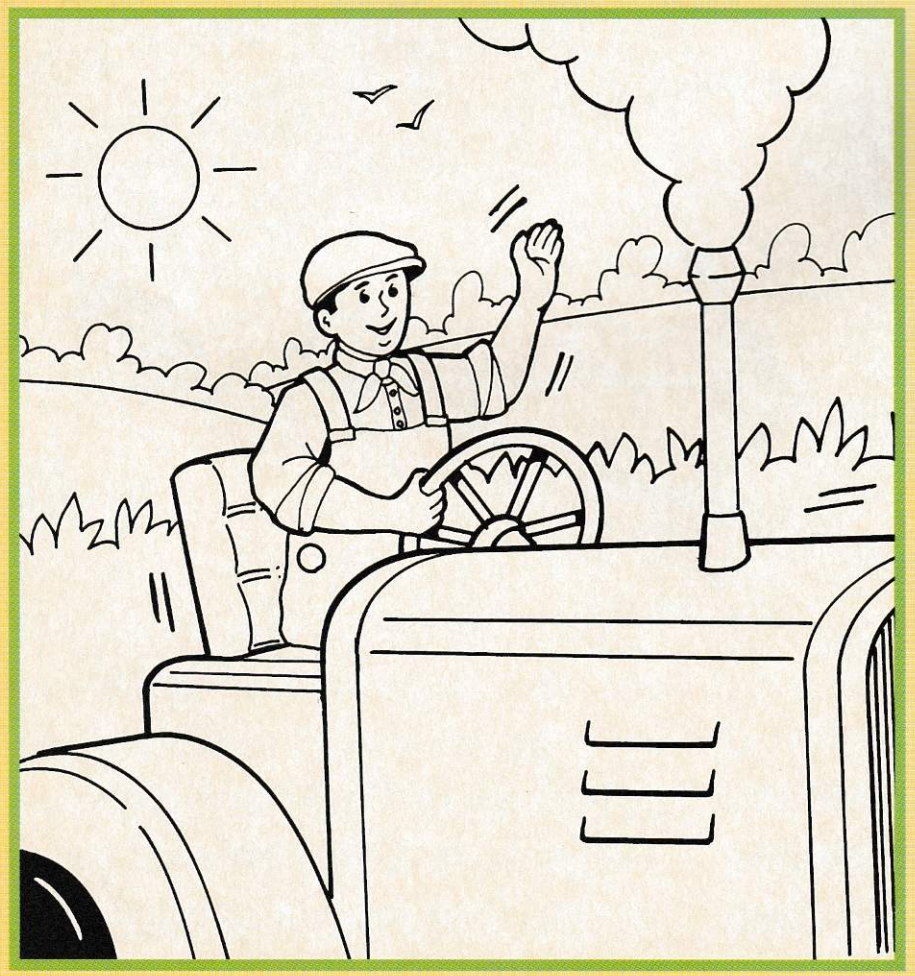
1 "I've got an unusual job for you today, Thomas!" the Fat Controller told him, one morning. "I need you to go to the Harbour Station to pick up two shire horses!" Thomas was delighted, he liked unusual jobs and he loved animals! "You can rely on me, Sir!" he whistled, as he set off along the track. At the harbour, the two big shire horses were led up a ramp and into a special carriage for animals. "We're delivering the horses to Old Farmer Collett, Thomas," his driver explained. "He's going to use them on his farm."



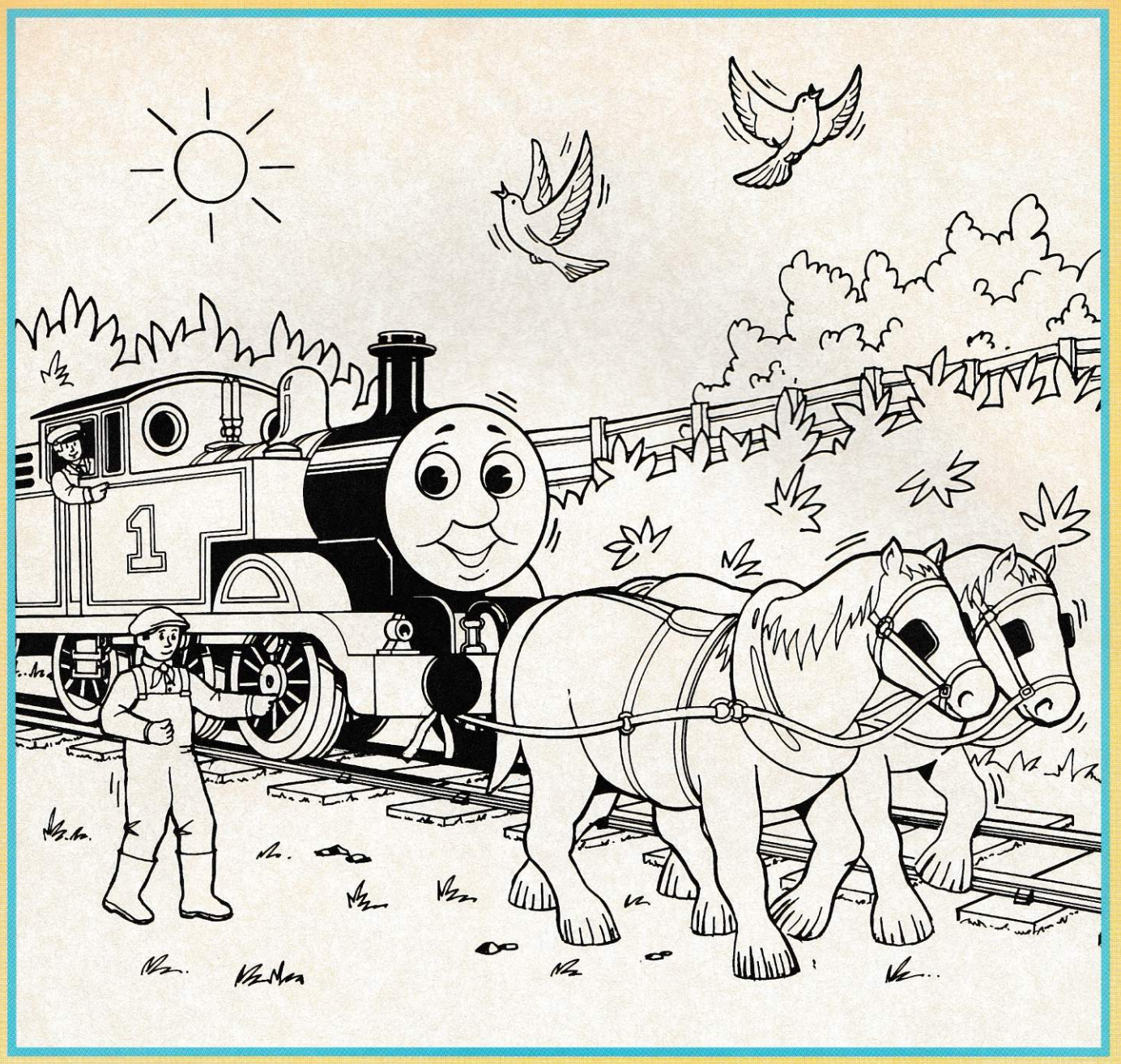
2 Young Thomas wanted to impress his special passengers by giving them a smooth ride. But soon, he started to show off! "You aren't very useful these days," Thomas said to them. "You take it easy while us engines do the hard work!"

3 The horses didn't seem to agree and neighed loudly! Suddenly, just as they were approaching the station near the farm, there was a very loud noise! "HISSSS...SSSS!" "Oh no! One of the steam valves has broken!" shouted Thomas' driver. "What ever will we do?" Then one of the shire horses gave a loud "neigh" as if he knew there was trouble!





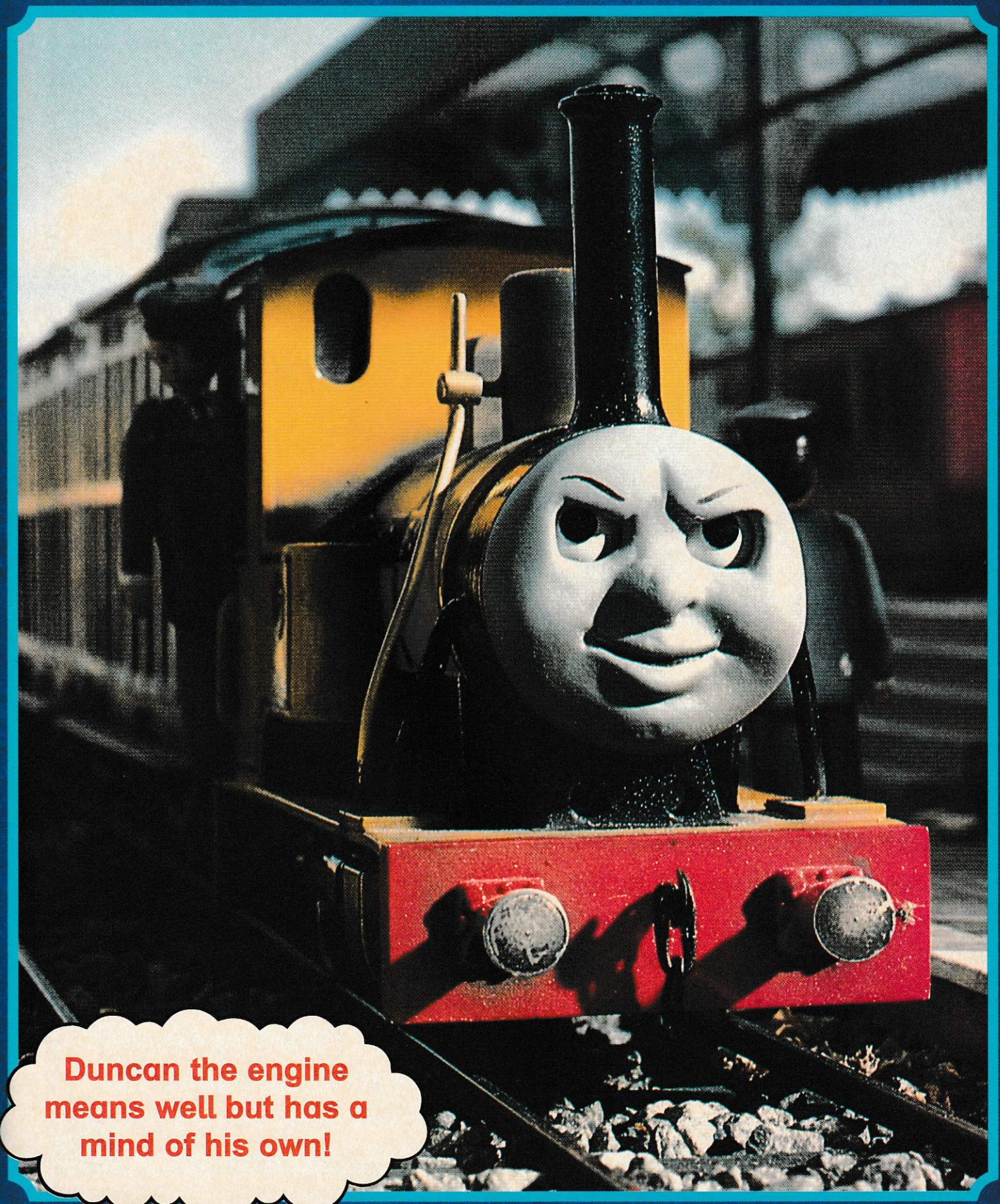
4 Thomas was really angry. "It's alright for you, clever hooves, horses don't have valves and pistons!" he snorted. Just then, his driver had an idea and he went to telephone old Farmer Collett. The farmer soon arrived on his tractor, with some brand new towing equipment. "It's time for my new horses to do their very first job!" he said, excitedly.



5 It was lucky for the horses that Thomas was a small engine! "Let's see what you can do!" shouted the farmer. In no time they had towed Thomas and the carriage into some sidings where Thomas could be mended. "Good boys!" shouted old Farmer Collett, patting his horses. "You're going to be Really Useful!" The driver was happy too. "Thanks Farmer Collett, where would we be without horse power?" he called. He was glad the line was clear but poor Thomas was left feeling a bit silly. "That's the first time I've been pulled by my own passengers!" he sighed. "It looks like shire horses can be Really Useful after all!"

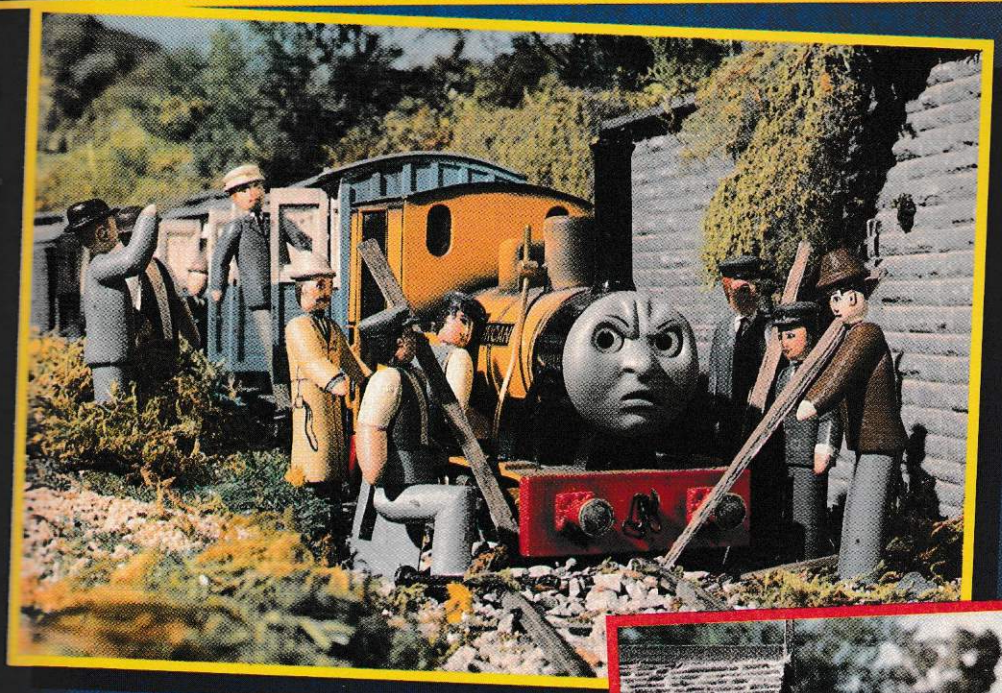
The end

All about

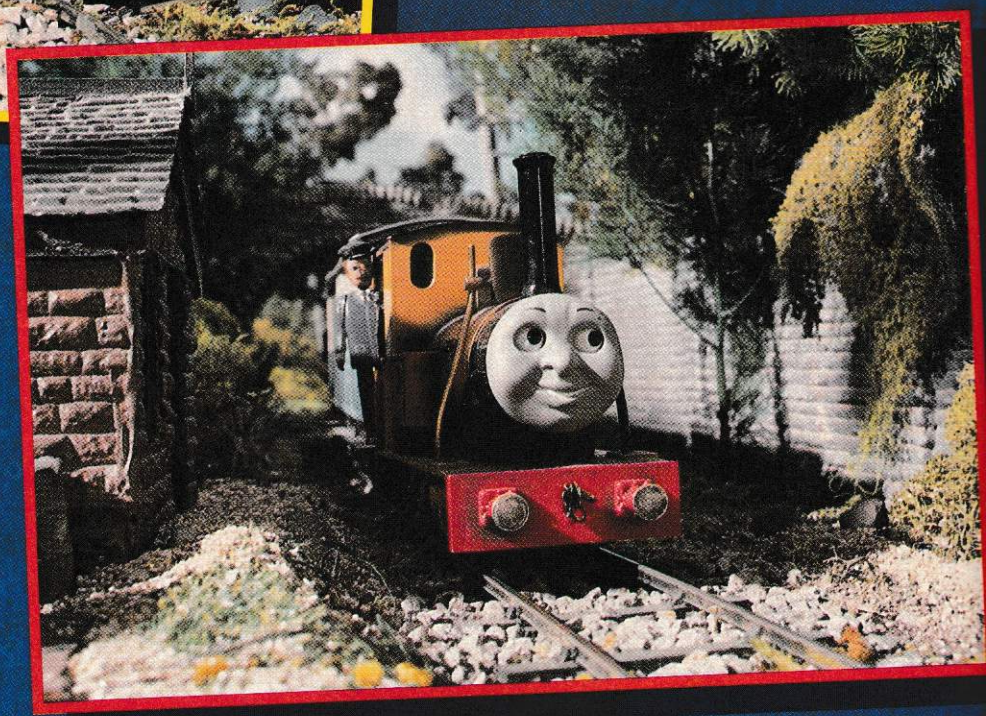


Duncan the engine means well but has a mind of his own!

Duncan!



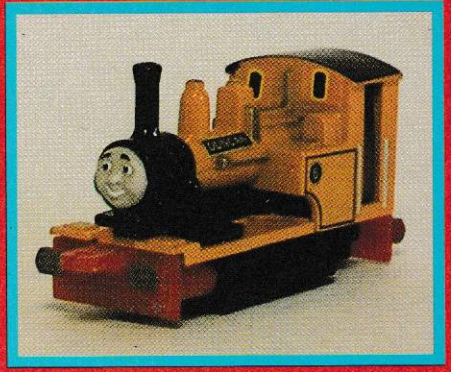
If something goes wrong, Duncan can be very rude and stubborn!



He has a heart of gold underneath it all, if only he would stop complaining!

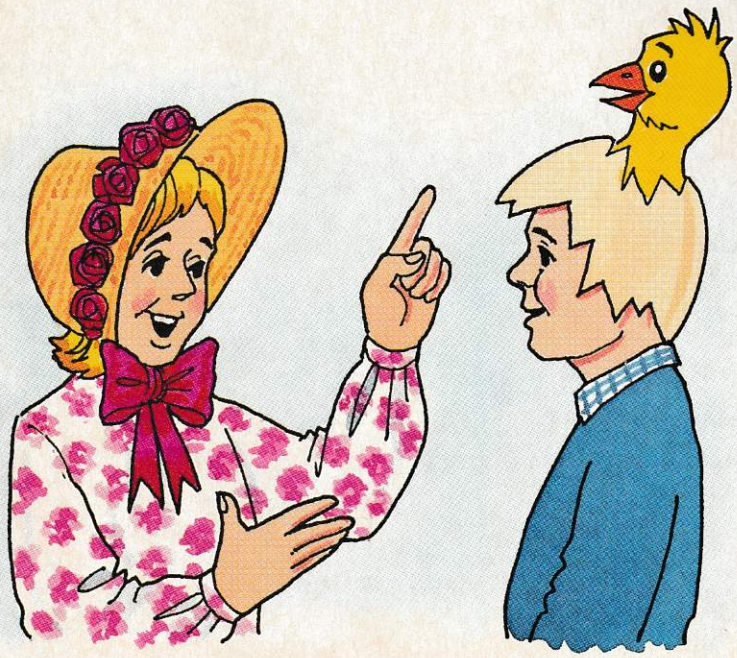
Win a model Duncan!

5 lucky winners will win a splendid model of Duncan from the ERTL engine range! Just send a postcard, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/247 model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ. Closing date: April 9th 1997. The first five names out of our postbag after the closing date will win their very own Duncan!



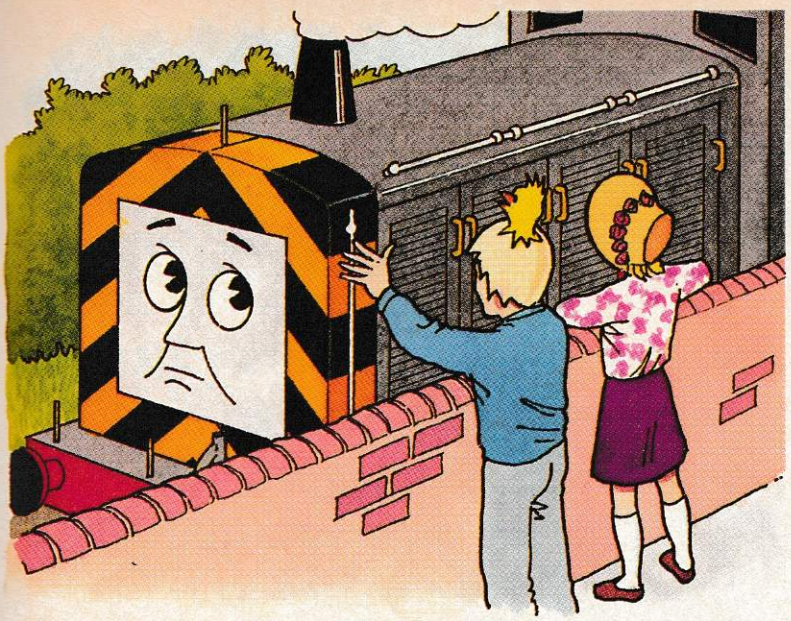
Easter Bonnet Parade!

Lady Hatt was helping Bridget and Stephen make an Easter bonnet for the Easter bonnet parade at the church hall. They made Bridget a lovely bonnet covered in flowers and ribbon. "Oh, it's really pretty!" said Bridget, happily. "I hope I don't have to wear a bonnet like that!"



added Stephen. Lady Hatt smiled, "Of course not. I've got another idea for you." She helped Stephen make a hat that looked like a broken egg shell. Then they made a little chicken to peep out the top of the top. "It looks so funny! Thank you!" Stephen cried, laughing.

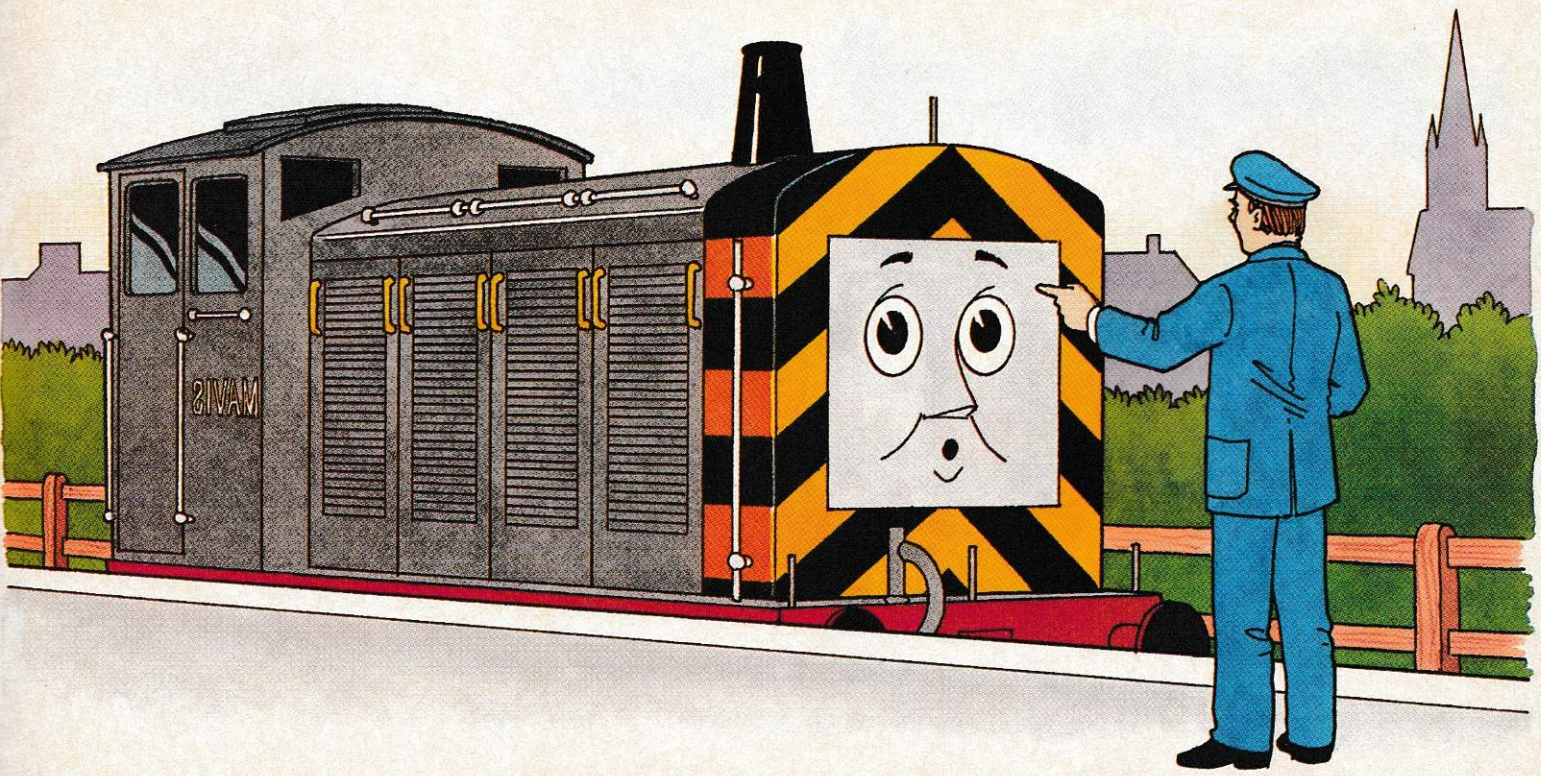
As the two children and Lady Hatt were walking to the church hall, Mavis went chugging past. "Hello, Mavis!" waved Stephen and Bridget. "Do you like our new Easter bonnets? We're going to wear them for the Easter parade." "They're very

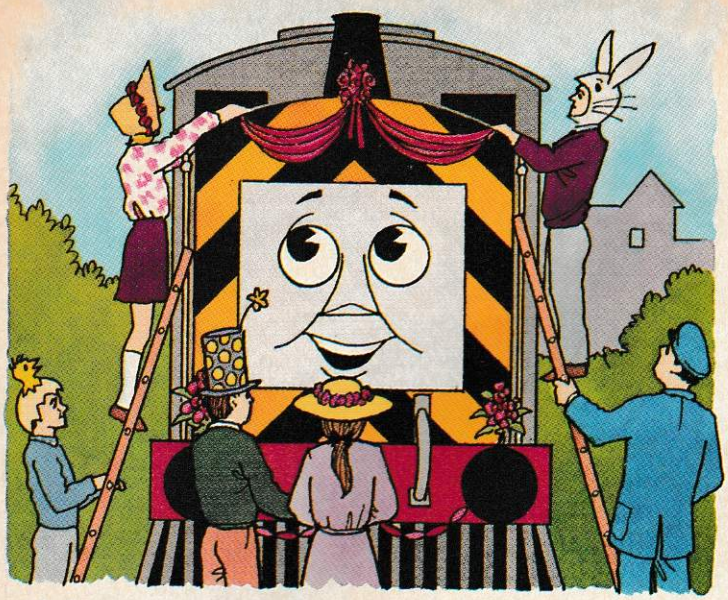


nice," Mavis replied. "I wish I could wear an Easter bonnet and join in the parade," she sighed. "Poor Mavis, she always has the messy jobs to do," said Bridget. "I wish she could join in with the fun."

Mavis was surprised when her driver pulled up at the station instead of the quarry. "The Fat Controller has got a very important job for you to do today, Mavis," he said. Mavis was even more surprised when she was coupled up to a small carriage. She never, ever pulled a carriage! "The Fat Controller thinks that you've been working so hard in the quarry, you can pull a carriage today, for a special Easter treat," her driver explained. Mavis was delighted! "Where are we going?" she asked. "You'll see," he said.

They set off along the track and as they came to the church hall, the driver told Mavis to stop. Then Stephen, Bridget and the other children ran out, all wearing their Easter bonnets. They ran over to Mavis and started decorating her with





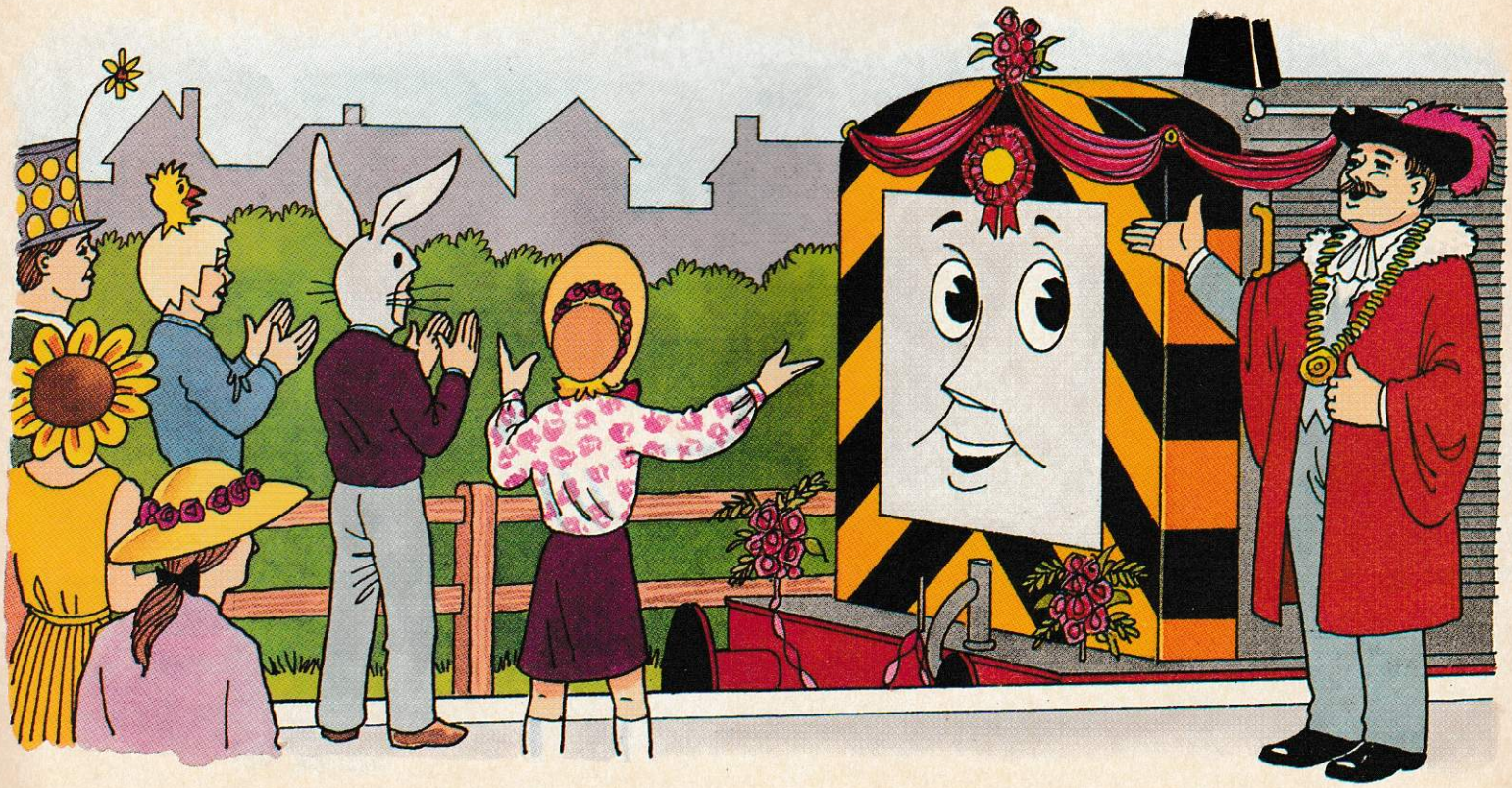
ribbons and flowers. "What's going on?" asked Mavis, puzzled. "You're our Easter train," Bridget told her. Mavis was even more confused. "We're going to take the children to the town hall so the Mayor can judge the Easter bonnet parade," explained her driver.

Mavis was very excited and she puffed happily along the track to the town hall.

The Mayor was waiting to choose the best Easter bonnet. There were lots of hats - funny ones, pretty ones and silly ones! A little boy with a bunny hat won first prize. "And finally," announced the Mayor. "The prize for the most unusual bonnet this year goes to . . . Stephen!" The children laughed with delight!

Then the Mayor gave Mavis a rosette for the prettiest train. Mavis was very proud. She'd taken part in the Easter bonnet parade and won a prize. What a lovely day!

THE END



Dot to dot!

This Easter chick is special and new, join the dots to see where he grew!

When you have finished colour this page!

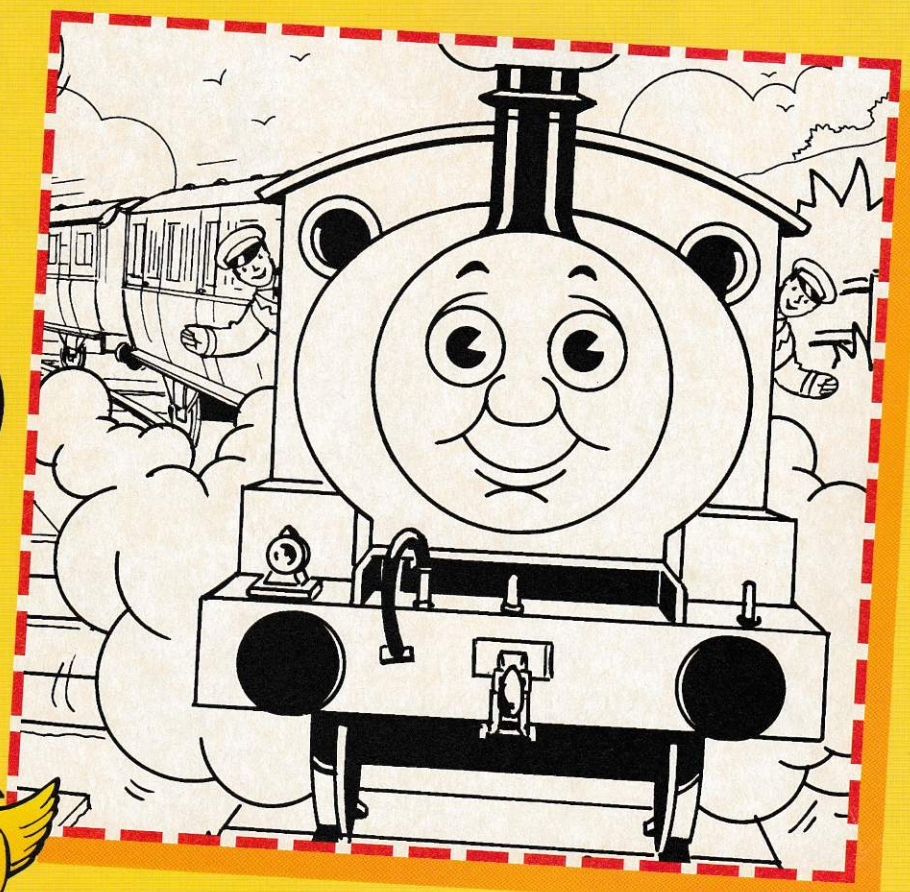
Fantastic Easter fun!

We have 50 Easter Gift Selection boxes from Kinnerton Confectionery to give away!

Each one includes loads of chocolate, a Thomas egg cup and a mobile for you to make!

If you would like to win, simply colour in this picture.

The best 50 will get a great Easter gift!



Send your picture to; Thomas Easter competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ.

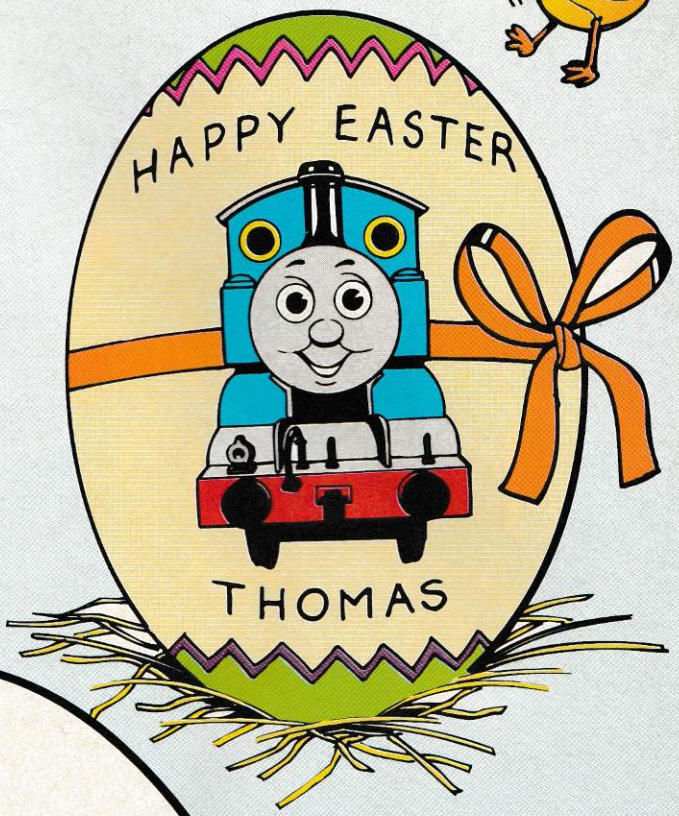
All entries must be received by April 9th 1997.

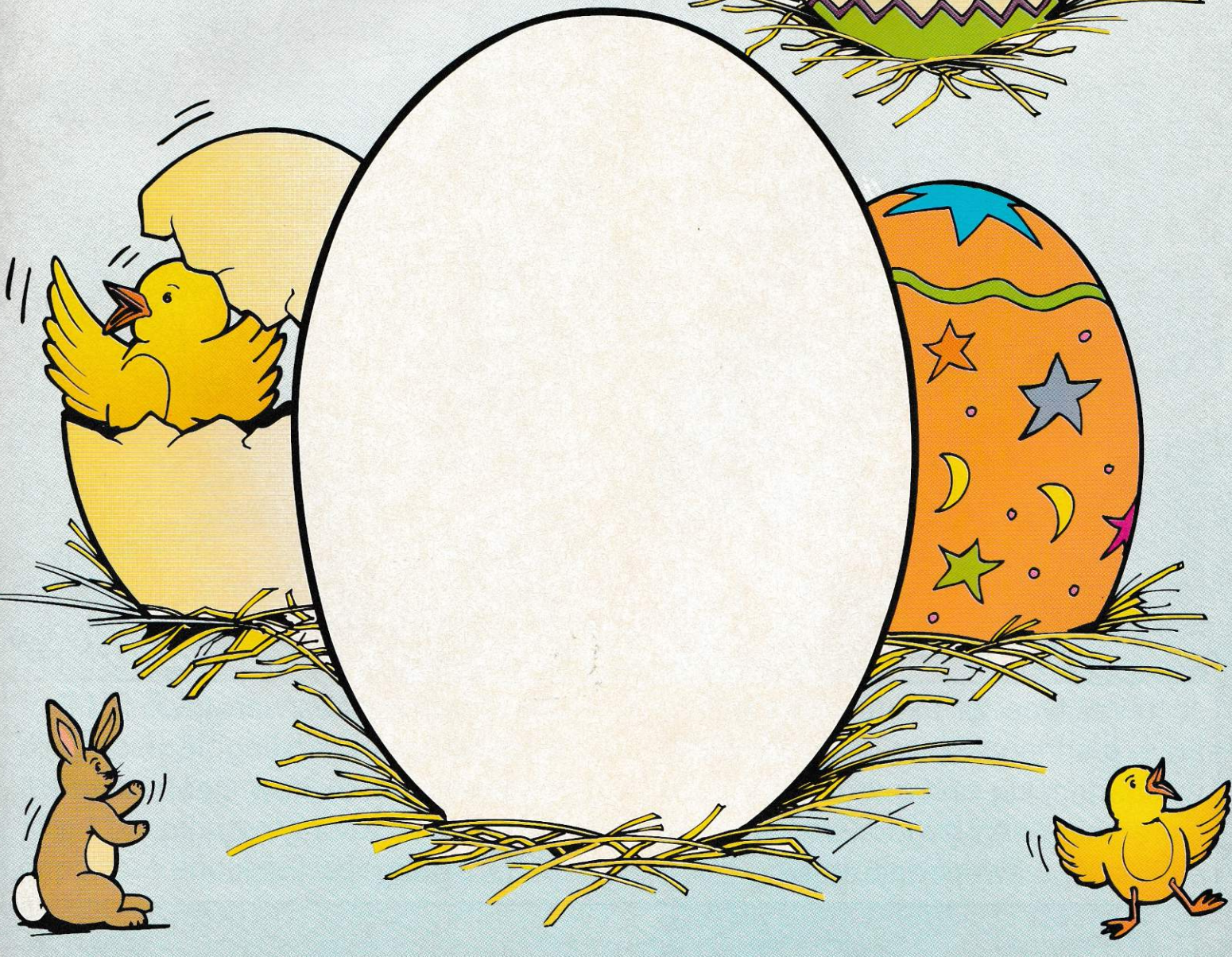
This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondance shall be entered into.

Engine eggs!

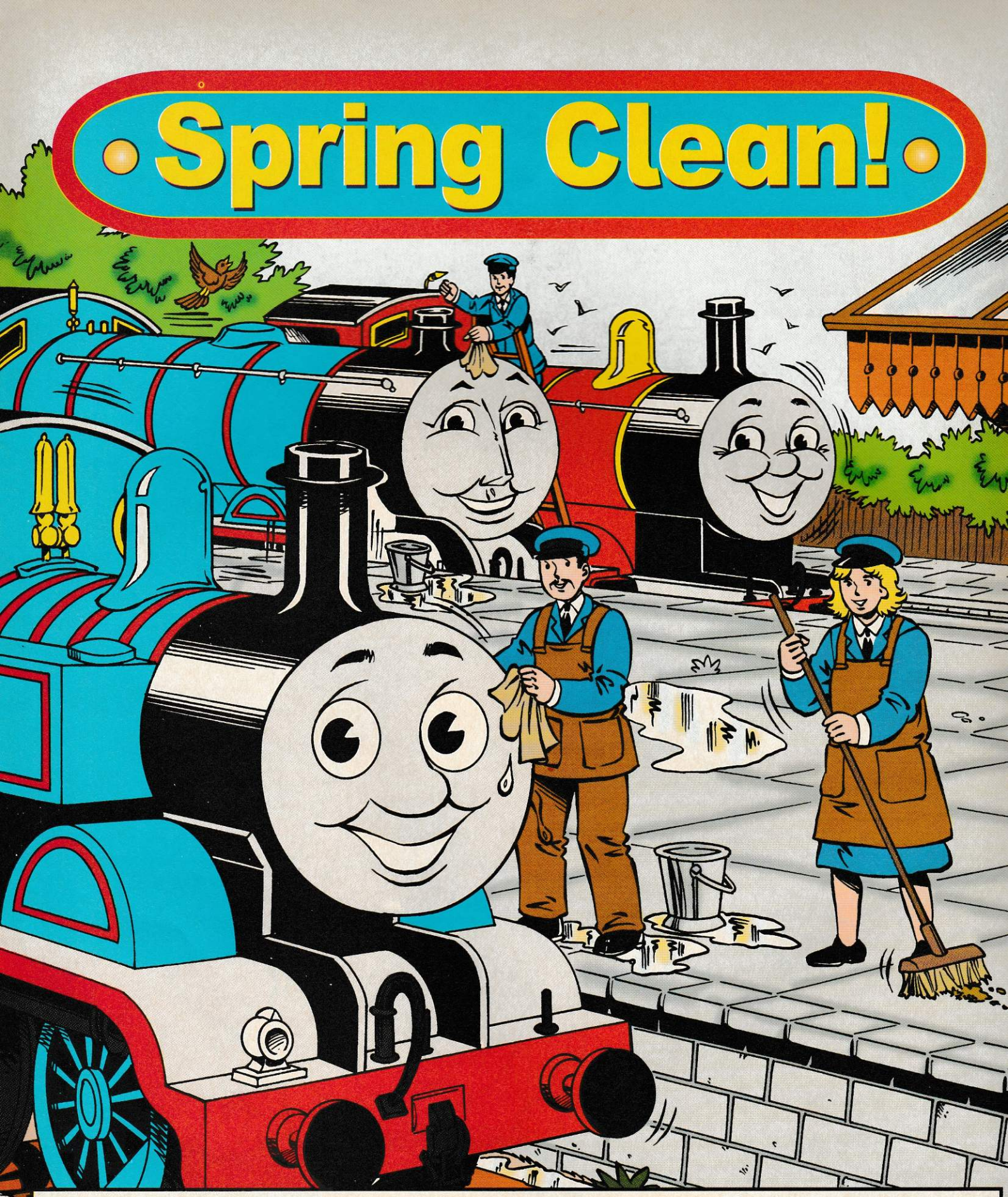
Decorate this Easter egg with a picture of your favourite engine!

Happy Easter!





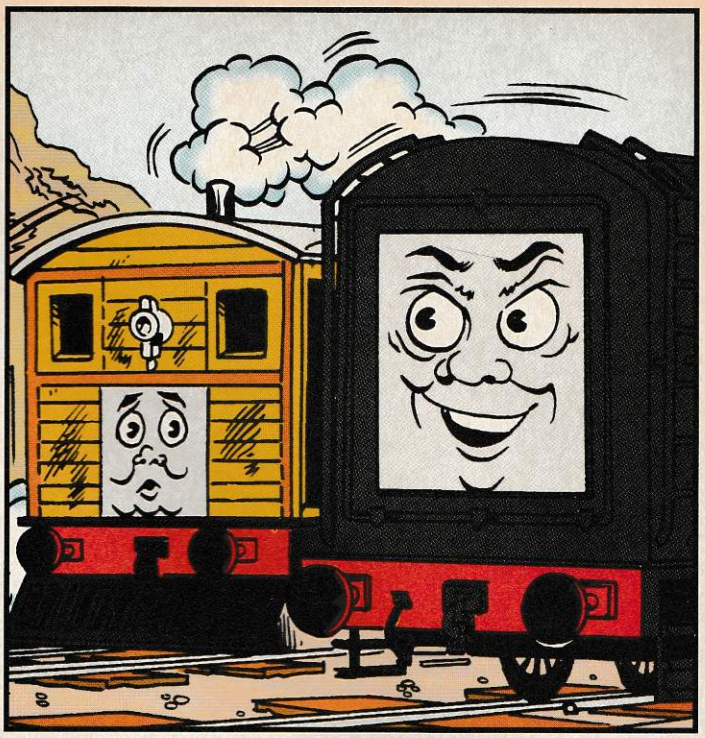
Spring Clean!



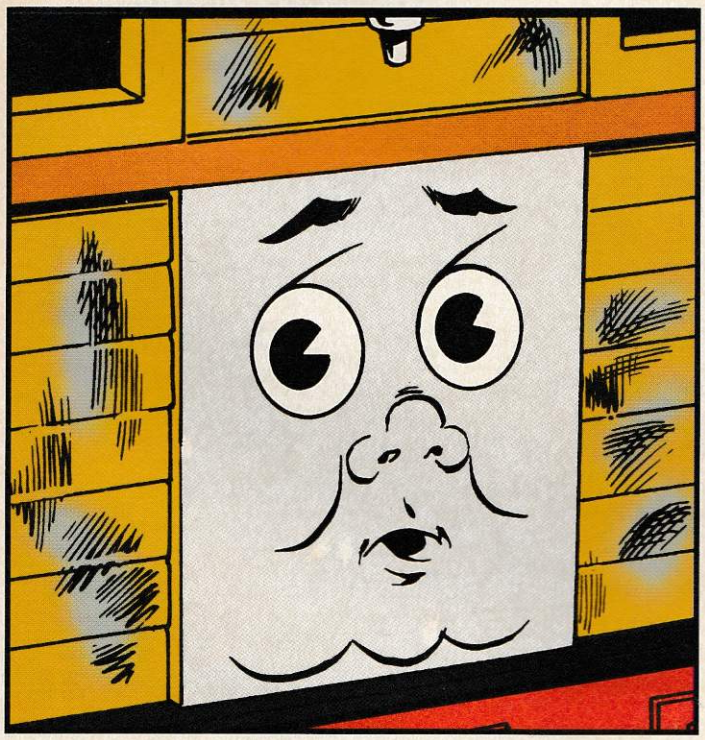
1. It was time for the engines to have a spring clean. They were all washed inside and out until they were shiny and bright. Even the station was swept and tidied.

2. All the engines were pleased to be fresh and sparkling. “Look how clean I am, look how clean I am!” little Thomas sang proudly, as he puffed along the track.

3. But no one had been to clean Toby the tram in the quarry. He was very sad when he saw the other engines going past, boasting how clean and smart they were.



4. "What a mess, what a mess!" sang Diesel, smugly, as he puffed past Toby. "I suppose the Fat Controller thinks you aren't worth cleaning, Toby!" he shouted.

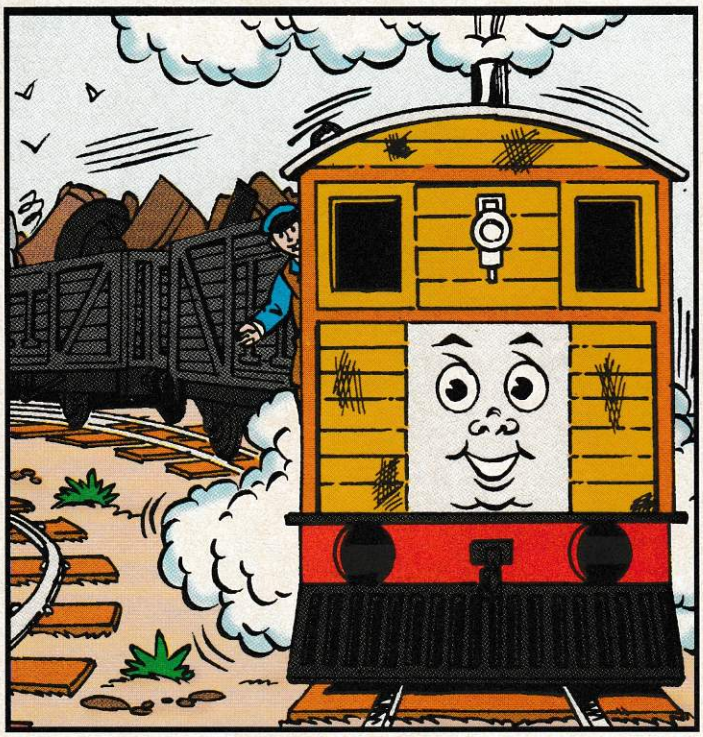


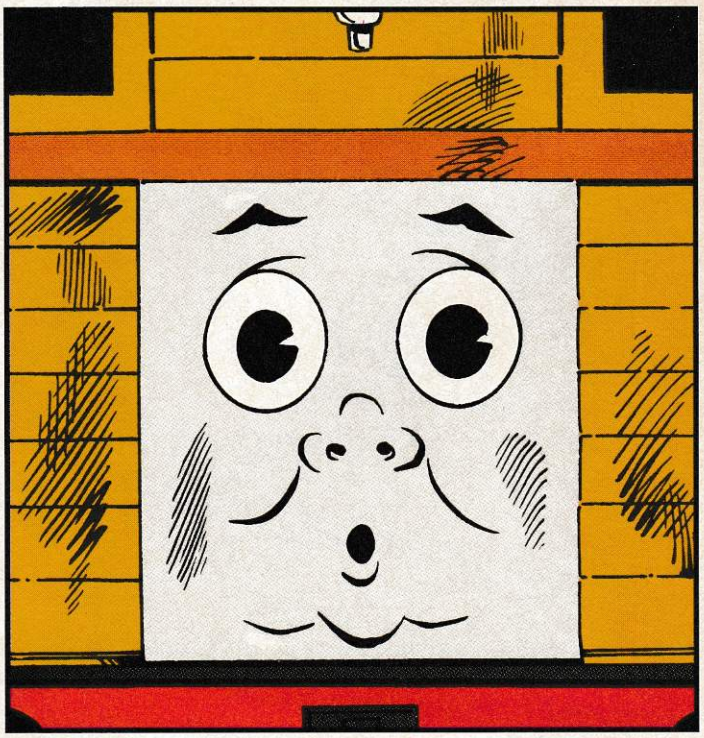
5. Poor Toby. His paintwork was all dirty and chipped from the stones in the quarry but no one came to clean him. "Diesel's right. I can't be important enough," he said sadly.

6. The next day, Toby was horrified to see Edward working in the quarry. "You've got to go to the scrap-yard today so Edward is doing your work," said Toby's driver.

7. “Oh dear me, I’m going to be scrapped!” thought Toby, miserably. He was really upset and very quiet, as he chugged slowly along the track towards the scrap-yard.

8. “Cheer up Toby, it’s a messy job but it isn’t that bad!” said his driver. “Pardon?” asked Toby, surprised. Did that mean he was here to work and not to be scrapped?





9. Toby smiled as his driver told him that he had to take some old junk to a dealer on the other side of Sodor. “I’d be delighted to,” he said. He felt much better, even if he was dirty!

10. Toby set off with a truck load of old junk. But his driver was right, it was a messy job. When he returned he was covered in oil and grease. “I’ll need a clean now,” he moaned.

11. "I look scruffier than ever," he sighed. "What will the other engines say now?" "That's why I didn't give you a good old spring clean yesterday," said his driver. "I wanted to wait until you'd delivered the junk today before I cleaned you up and made you shine like new!" So he was going to be spring-cleaned after all, Toby thought, happily to himself.

12. To Toby's delight his driver not only cleaned him inside and out. He also gave him a bright new coat of paint! A very proud and happy Toby puffed along the track back to the engine shed, that night. "Look how smart I am, look how clean and bright I am," he sang, joyfully. And when he saw Diesel he gave an extra loud whistle! "Peep! Peep!"

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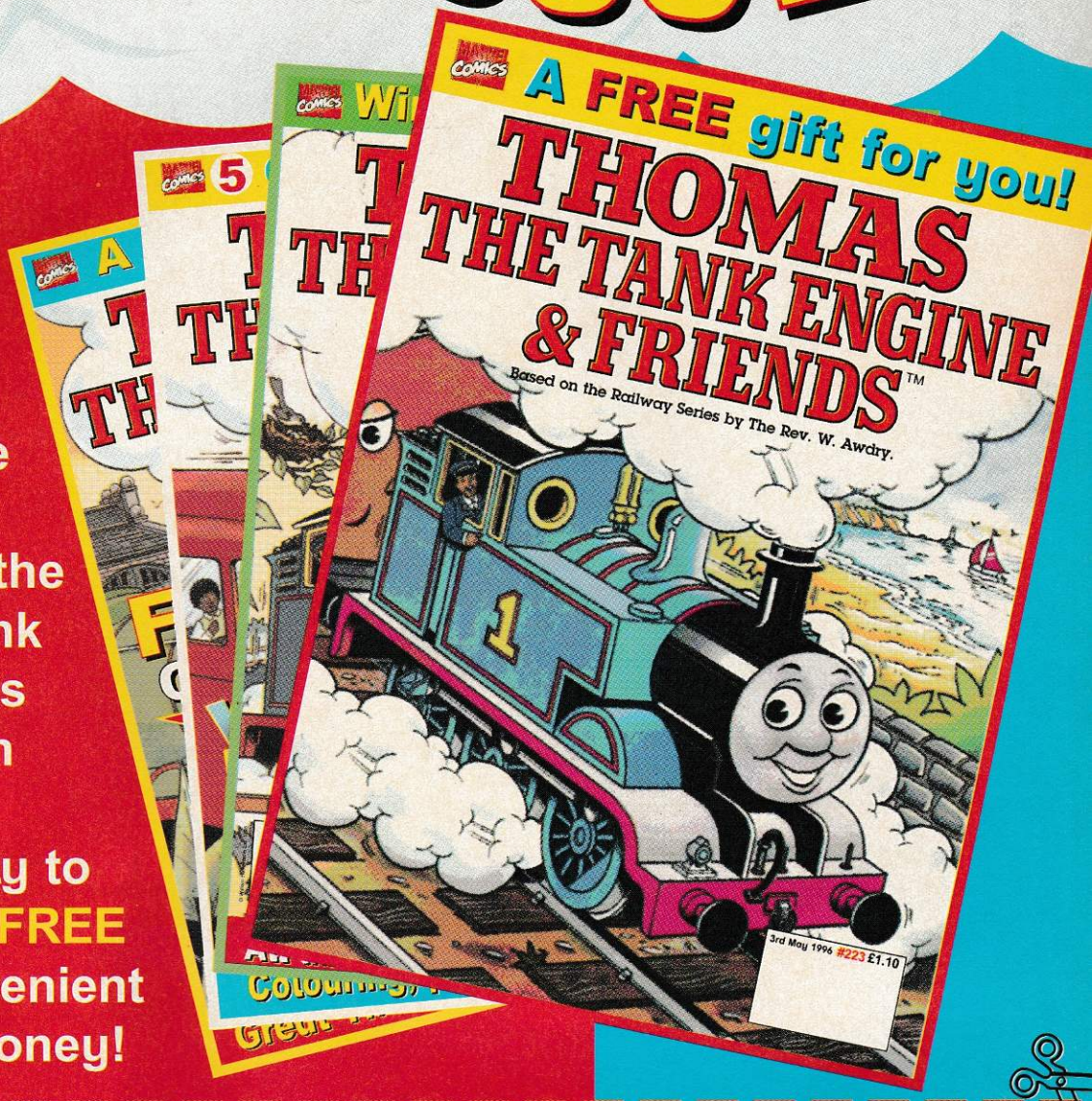

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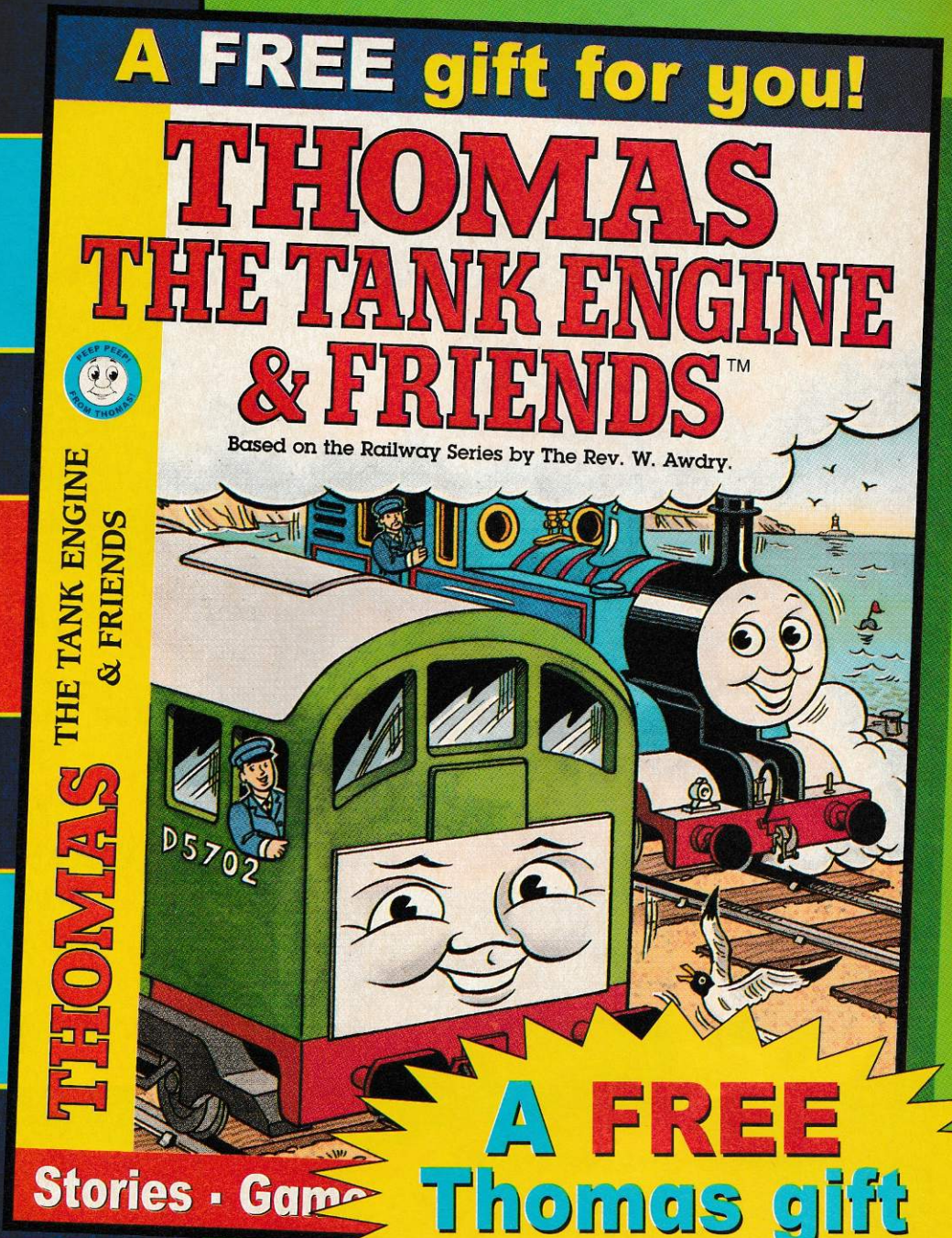
In the NEXT ISSUE!

Stories & puzzles!

Competition fun!

Reading & colouring!



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Thank you

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Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ.

Star Letter

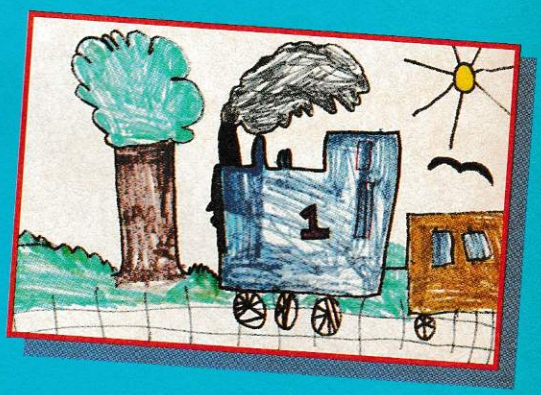
Dear Fat Controller,
What is Thomas going to do for Easter?

From Laurence Eastham, aged 4.

Stephen and Bridget always visit us at this time of year and Thomas and all the other engines love helping them look for any surprise chocolate eggs the Easter Bunny might have left behind!
Yummy!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a splendid Thomas carry case!

Rowan Jones, aged 6, has drawn me a super picture of Thomas working hard!



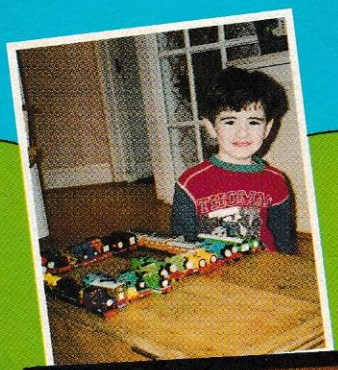
Prize Poem!

Ben Greenwood, aged 5, has written this super poem for us!

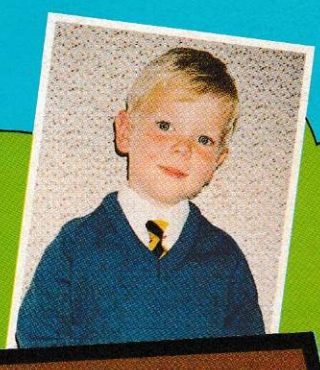
Thomas is a good friend,
Diesel drives me round the bend.
Percy is a cheerful fellow,
Bill and Ben are both yellow.
Harold hovers in the sky,
Trevor's always chuffing by!

Happy Birthday

To..
Andrew Hedley, aged 4,
Thomas Willmer, aged 6,
Andrew Witty, aged 3 &
Emily Smith, aged 2.

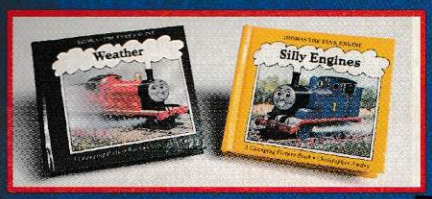


Jack Hershman, aged 3.



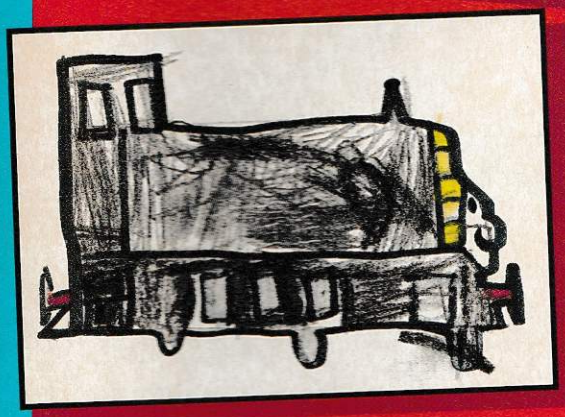
Daniel Heppleston, aged 5.

ail train!



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special **Thomas Changing Picture Book.**

Thank you to Anthony Anderson, aged 6, for this very handsome picture of me!



Mavis looks all set to go in this picture by Dan Taylor, aged 4!

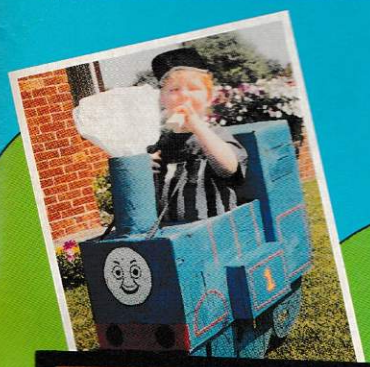
Percy's Jokes

Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy?

What is a cannibal's favourite game?
Swallow the leader!
Andrew Hartshorn, aged 5.

How do martians drink tea?
With flying saucers!
Mark Forrest, aged 4.

Where would you find a wooden trumpet?
In an elastic band!
Margaret Maciver, aged 7.



Ben Woodland, aged 3.

Jack Burns, aged 6.

THOMAS
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Photo album
5
JAMES